

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 MCE-00 /049 W
-----027433 151711Z /43

R 140444Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5652
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MASS, BM, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BUSINESS WITH GUB PEARL AND FISHERIES
CORPORATION

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2393 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 167863 (NOTAL)

1. MR. GERALD ATTAWAY, ATTORNEY FROM MESQUITE, TEXAS, VISITED BURMA FROM JULY 6 TO JULY 13 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALES OF BOATS AND PARTICIPATION IN JOINT FISHING VENTURES WITH GUB PEARL ANF FISHERIES CORPORATION CHAIRMAN U K. BA THAUNG. MR. ATTAWAY SAID THAT THE BURMESE WERE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING APPROXIMATELY 30 BOATS, 6 OF WHICH WERE LARGE PATROL BOATS FOR PROTECTING FISHING WATERS, AND THE REMAINDER TRAWLING AND WORK BOATS. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID THAT U BA THAUNG HAD TOLD HIM THAT GHE GUB WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN PURCHASING IMMEDIATELY TWO OR THREE "SWIFT" PATROL BOATS (105') MANUFACTURED BY SEWART SEACRAFT OF BURWICH, LOUISIANA. ATTAWAY WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD OBTAIN FINANCING FOR THIS PURCHASE THROUGH EUROPEAN BANKS. HE INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK AMERICAN FINANCING FOR LATER PURCHASES OF PATROL AND WORK BOATS.

2. ATTAWAY SAID THAT U BA THAUNG WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING JOINT VENTURES IN FISHING
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DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE GUB AND PRIVATE US FIRMS. (PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY IS AGAINST JOING VENTURES WITH PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTORS.)

3. ATTAWAY SAID THAT HE WAS ACTING FOR HIMSELF AS AN ARRANGER ON A COMMISSION BASIS, IN BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF AND UNNAMED ASSOCIATES, AND DID NOT REPRESENT A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP OR

CORPORATION. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, HE WAS GIVEN A LETTER OF "MANDATE", AUTHORIZING HIM "TO SECURE INFORMATION LEADING TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF LOANS," AND "TO CONTACT U.S. AND OTHER BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE'S PEARL AND FISHERIES CORPORATION IN RESPECT TO SECURING CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF PRODUCTS TO SAID BUSINESS."

4. EMBASSY ADVISED ATTAWAY OF THE PROBABLE APPLICATION OF MUNITIONS CONTROL LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO SALE OF PATROL BOATS, AND OF THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. ATTAWAY ALSO SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE IN WASHINGTON AS TO NEED TO REGISTER AS FOREIGN AGENT, IN VIEW OF "MANDATE" PROVIDED BY PEARL AND FISHERIES CORPORATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, FISHERIES, PEARLS, JOINT VENTURES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RANGOO02536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780291-0190
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780759/aaaabxiy.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1de90773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SINGAPORE 2393, 78 STATE 167863
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2002991
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE BUSINESS WITH GUB PEARL AND FISHERIES CORPORATION
TAGS: ETRD, MASS, BM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1de90773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014